

# FINLANDIA

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## UNIVERSITY

### May 8, 2020 Weekly President's Message

Finlandia Community,

Welcome to the end of another Friday. Thank you for what we accomplished together this week.

I hope many of you were able to attend last Sunday's virtual baccalaureate service. If not, you can view it [here](#). Also, if you haven't as yet, mark your calendar for May 21, 6pm and attend our virtual commencement ceremony.

This past Monday Finlandia's board of trustees met virtually for their regularly scheduled May meeting. Our trustees are keenly aware of the challenges we are facing as well as the opportunities we are intending to capture during this pandemic. Since mid-March we have convened weekly Zoom meetings to provide regular and frequent updates to the board's executive committee.

During our meeting, one of our trustees, a 2004 alumna, reminded me of something he would hear more often in the past: Finlandia does small well. His point was that Finlandia is uniquely positioned for such a time as this. I've been thinking.

We do *small well*. Yes, our brand of higher education marked by a thoughtfully personalized blend of challenge and nurture is one I believe few campuses can match. These days, however, we also understand our opportunity to do *small well*. That is, we do small while well. The point: when done right, being small fosters well-being. I agree with Trustee Rinkinen. This is our opportunity.

Erin Barnett, our dean of students, is facilitating the task force charged with building our fall 2020 safe open scenario. If you have any questions or comments that you believe can be helpful for this work, I encourage you to reach out to Erin at [erin.barnett@finlandia.edu](mailto:erin.barnett@finlandia.edu).

Enjoy your weekend. PJ